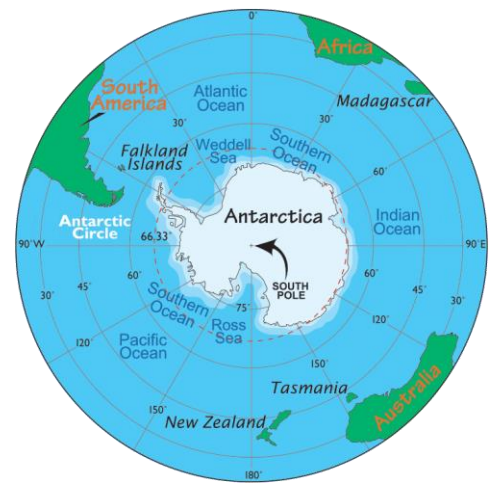


Parcham Classes

- Size : Fifth largest continent.
- Situation : Antarctica, centred on the South Pole, is situated 960 km from South America, 2,700 km from Australia and 4,000 km from South Africa.
- It is the only continent which is isolated and zero populated.
- It is the driest and coldest continent on earth.
- It is surrounded by three oceans-the India Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.



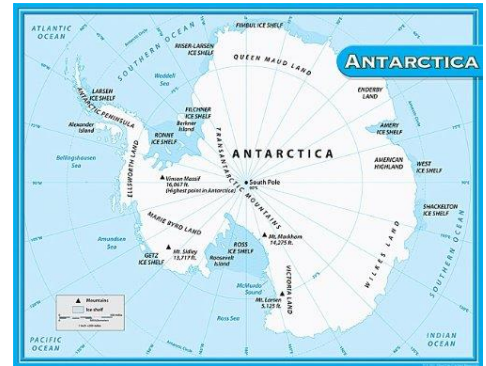
- It is larger than Europe and is twice the size of Australia.
- Fabian von Bellingshausen was the first person in the world who discovered the mainland of Antarctica, who came here in 1820 on the ship name “Vostok”. Ramcharan Jee was the first India who reached Antarctica in 1960.
- Only 2% part of Antarctica becomes ice-free in summers.
- It is known as ‘Dynamic or Active continent’ because the shape of the Antarctica changes with the change of season.
- World’s largest glacier—Lambert is located here.
- In 1985 at the South Polar Region an alarming discovery was made by British Antarctic Survey. An ozone hole (formed due to ozone depletion) was found over the polar atmosphere.

- It is also called the “Continent, Dedicated to Science” because the Scientist from various countries are engaged in research activities in this continent.
- In 1984, India established its centre in Antarctica called ‘Dakshin Gangotri’, to study the structure, climate, fossils environment, minerals and vegetation etc. of this continent which is now completely destroyed.
- In December 1987, India established a research centre, called ‘Maitri’ to conduct research on environmental science, geology, physiology etc.
- India established its third research centre ‘Bharti’ on 18 March 2012 in Larseman hill to study oceanography and the phenomenon of continental breakup.

- Mt. Vinson Massif is the highest peak in Antarctica.
- Queen Maud Range divides the continent into parts. It contains extensive coal reserves.
- Vida is a 19m thick ice layer saline lake in Antarctica. Its salinity is equal to that of Dead Sea.
- Mt. Erebus is the only active volcano of Antarctica.



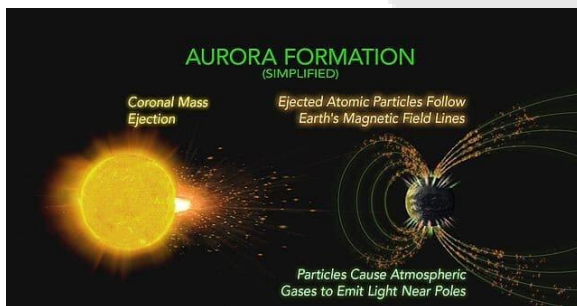
- Two broad inlets, the Weddell Sea and the Ross Sea
- The Sun is not visible from 22 March to 23 September and it never set between 24 September and 21 March.



- Vegetation: Lichen and Moss are the main vegetation of the continent.
- Penguin well-known flightless bird found in this continent.
- The Krill is one of the species of fish found here. They live in groups, called shoals.

Aurora

- In winter, there is a continuous night for 3 months in the polar regions. Curtains of brilliant colored lights appear on these dark nights. They are caused by magnetic storms in the upper atmosphere.
- They are called Aurora Australis in the south and Aurora Borealis in the north.

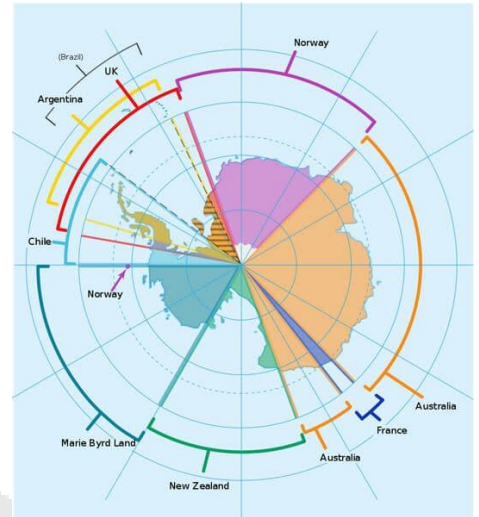


Minerals

- Scientific studies have shown Antarctica to be rich in gold, platinum, nickel, copper, and petroleum.
- But by the international Agreement, this continent is to be used only by the scientists to study the climate of the Earth and the origin of its crust.
- About 70 percent of the Earth's supply of freshwater can be extracted from the ice-caps of Antarctica.

The Antarctic Treaty

- The Antarctic Treaty was signed in Washington on 1 December 1959 by the twelve nations that had been active during the IGY (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and USSR).
- Through this agreement, the countries active in Antarctica consult on the uses of a whole continent, with a commitment that it should not become the scene or object of international discord.
- Antarctica should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, military activities, such as the establishment of military bases or weapons testing, are specifically prohibited;



- guarantees continued freedom to conduct scientific research, as enjoyed during the IGY;
- promotes international scientific cooperation including the exchange of research plans and personnel, and requires that results of the research be made freely available
- prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive waste

Questions:

Which of the following mountain range divides the Antarctica into two parts?

- (a) Trans-Antarctica Mountains
- (b) Great Dividing Range
- (c) Queen Maud Range
- (d) Cordillera de Los Andes

Which of the following minerals is not found on the Antarctic region?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Platinum
- (c) Iron
- (d) Petroleum

What was the name of the first Indian scientific station set up in Antarctica?

- (a) Dakshin Gangotri
- (b) Mount Indira
- (c) Maitri
- (d) Himadri

Consider the following statements regarding Antarctic Treaty:

1. The Antarctic Treaty was signed in Washington on 1 December 1949.
2. It prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive waste

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Which of the following lake of Antarctica is as saline as the Dead Sea?

- (a) Lake Superior
- (b) Lake Huron
- (c) Vinson Massif
- (d) Vida

Which of the following species of fish found in Antarctica?

- A. Cobia
- B. Krill
- C. Goldfish
- D. Guppy

When is the Sun not visible in Antarctica?

- A. From 22 March to 23 September
- B. From 22 April to 23 August
- C. From 22 May to 23 October
- D. From 22 January to 23 December

Which is the only active volcano of Antarctica?

- A. Sakurajima
- B. Mauna Loa
- C. Kilauea
- D. Mt. Erebus

Question	Answer
1	c
2	c
3	a
4	b
5	d
6	b
7	a
8	d